GOLD HILL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 26 GOLD HILL, OR. 97525 Phone 855-9351 AUGUST 1990

The following article was given to me by Lida Childers, who found it in an old newspaper I hope you enjoy this story. Linda Genaw

Taken from the Ashland Tidings, Thursday June 24, 1915.

BURIAL GROUND OF ROGUES FOUND AT SLEEPY HOLLOW.--

"How long has it been since the last burial chant of the Rogues was sounded near Gold Hill? If the memory of pioneers went back to the final entry in the old burial grounds of the Sleepy Hollow ranch, that question might be answered. More than sixty years have elapsed, that is certain. Workmen of the ranch, excavating a deep sewer trench recently sank their implements into a veritable treasure trove of relics - and the bones of the vanquished tribesman.

The find was uncovered at the point where Sardine Creek enters the Rogue, in the high creek bank. No attempt was made to ascertain the extent of the burial grounds and the excavation has been filled up. Three distinct skeletons were disclosed. One of these had been retired in the splendor of a uniform cap, the visor of which alone remained; over this was drawn a copper kettle. The bones reposed in a prodigal wealth of glass beads, all colors and sizes.

Various brass buttons, one of the United States naval service, many of the army, were found. The oddest button of all, when polished, disclosed the symbolical phoenix surrounded by flame. It bore the inscription, "Je Rennis de mes Cendres," and No. 1. Freely translated the French motto reads: "I am reborn from my ashes." Soldier buttons were favorite adornments of the tribes.

A very fine granite pestle was also disclosed, close to the surface, and evidently buried as an afterthought. It was splendidly proportioned, 17 inches in length, with a knob and grip of three inches in length. A spear point of a dark red obsidian, six inches long and of remarkable workmanship, was found.

By each form rested the rusted length of an old-fashioned rifle - the walnut stocks completely fallen to dust and decay. A single-shot horse pistol such as Kidd might have flourished was one conglomerate of red ruin.

Perhaps the most interesting relics were peculiar three-lobed plates of brass, which fitted and overlapped to a nicety. Six or eight of these were found. Were they parts of ancient Spanish plate armor?

The records run back better than sixty years without disclosing knowledge of this burial place. Tradition has it that years ago, when the Messners owned the land and the elder Messner was alive, there came to the ranch a wrinkled Indian crone of many years. She asked for permission to dig. It was denied her. For weeks she importuned the Messners, then departed, grumbling about buried dollars. From this somewhat uncertain incident has grown up a legend of hidden treasure.

They sleep well, these folks who used to be landlords of the valley. The sacrilege of their burial ground was unintentional and will not be repeated while the Sleepy Hollow remains under its present management, now that the location of the cemetery is known...."

Please do not trespass, as this is private property. LMG

MANY THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING

William Tramposch, Executive Director of the O.H.S. for his warm and inspiring speech at our grand opening and also for mentioning our organization in his speech at the S.O.H.S. annual picnic.

Sam Wegner, Executive Director of the S.O.H.S. for also mentioning our society in his speech at the annual picnic, for attending our grand opening and for his kind letter to our group.

Jean Vonrachek, for her generous, professional assistance during a recent research visit at the Swedenburg Cultural Resource Center.

Jerry Lausmann, Medford city mayor, for loaning us the Oregon State flag from his office.

Clare Moore, for continuing to accomplish her duties as treasurer during a time of illness and extreme discomfort.

Ted Wharton, for doing cement repair work to our sidewalk, and for making and installing flag pole brackets on our building. Also for his many recent donations to our collection.

Janet Sessions, for painting the floor in the front portion of the building and working non-stop to ready the building for opening.

KRWQ, for the free publicity on the day of our grand opening.

Tom Cushman, Dick Steele, Bob Bowers and Ted Wharton, for moving the large display case into our back room.

All the members who baked more than enough cookies to satisfy people's hunger at the grand opening.

Ida Tilley, Tom Cushman, Mary Bradish, Crayetta Armstrong, Janet Sessions, and Casey Faubion for wearing their 1800's clothing for the opening.

Don Morrow, for donating wall brackets so that we could hang our photographs safely.

Wesley Dahme, for being at the grand opening all day long to help in any and every way imaginable .

George Tilley, for advising us on the bids we received for demolition of the P.P. & L. building.

Shirley Saunders, for giving generously of her time and talent to help sew and teach one of our members how to make replica pioneer bonnets. Each bonnet takes nearly three hours to complete, from the time you cut the fabric to match her relative's 100-year-old pattern, to the time it can be worn.

Linda Genaw, and Genevieve Heil for their efforts on the newsletter as editor and contributing reporter.

Natalie Brown and Susan Ray from the S.O.H.S for their assistance with our new bulk film loader, and other photography needs. C.F.

To our members,

Congratulation to those of you who came to our grand opening. You helped to make it a wonderful success and at the same time you became part of a pivotal day in Gold Hill's history.

Among the nearly 100 guests who visited our building on the 23rd, were dignitaries from the Oregon Historical Society and the Southern Oregon Historical Society.

We were also very fortunate to receive so much favorable publicity from area newspapers and radio station KRWQ. Their efforts on our behalf are much appreciated.

Some of our members loaned their cherished heirlooms to help complete our displays at the opening. Without them our building might not have been quite so interesting.

We were given many generous offers from our guests who wished to donate different items that were of historical interest to Gold Hill.

As all our active members know, one of our goals is to promote interest, and I'd like to think of interest as another word for membership.

I'd also like to thank all the volunteers. YOU DID A FANTASTIC JOB! This effort proves that we will continue to grow and become even more effective as an organization. It will be through our dedication, determination and cooperation that we will enjoy many more successes in the future.

If you were unable to join us for our big day, please remember that you are always welcome to come visit our building and see all the items currently on display.

President, Cindy Faubion

MEMBER PROFILE

by Janet Sessions

Genevieve Dahme

Born at home in Clay County, Indiana on March 28, 1910, Genevieve Sinders was one of nine children, six of whom are still living. After graduating from the local grade school, Genevieve worked days and attended high school classes at night in South Bend. In 1929 one of the first Social Security numbers allocated was assigned to her when she went to work for Bendix Aviation. She also took nurse's training and volunteered as an Army nurse during World War II.

In 1940 Police Officer Arthur Harrigan became her husband in Huntington Park, California. This marriage led to the birth of two children - Victor, currently an interior decorator in Orlando, Florida, and Margaret, a teacher in San Diego, California, then three grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Following some years of widowhood, she gained four more grandchildren when in 1970 she married co-worker Wesley Dahme, a widower, in Pomona, California.

With 20 years of exciting and fulfilling work at General Dynamics coming to a close when she retired in 1975, Genevieve's plans for the future did not involve spending the rest of her days in a rocking chair watching the world go by; she found life too stimulating. Both Dahmes enjoy travel, hunting and fishing. Beyond their frequent journeys criss-crossing the United States, they have done globetrotting to such exotic places as Greece and the Holy land. Even now, Genevieve dreams of visiting more new places such as Sydney, Australia.

Since moving to Gold Hill in 1984, this active lady has taken six semester classes in silversmithing and two semesters of wool spinning. She has all the tools necessary and hopes "to become a good weaver". Some of her silver projects have been on display at the Medford Armory. Planting flowers ("only the good Lord grows them"), and sewing are other hobbies for which there seldom seems to be enough time. Among the organizations keeping her hours filled are the Eastwood Baptist Church, Roxy Ann Gem & Mineral Club, Eastern Star, Daughter's of the Nile, Gold Hill Historical Society and Republican Woman's Club. Being married to one of Gold Hill's City Councilmen also keeps her involved in local activities.

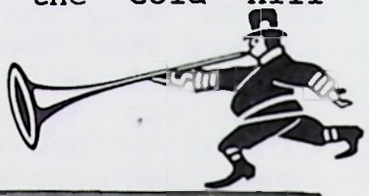
This energetic lady gathers no moss!

(An interesting side note-her mantle is decorated with numerous family photographs including her aunt and uncle, Venilia and Orville Redenbacher of the famed popcorn empire.)

GENEVIEVE AND WESLEY DAHME

There will not be a regular meeting held in August. It is time for our annual meeting, which will be a potluck picnic held at the Gold Rogue Sports Park August 26, 1990.

Our September meeting will be held September 18, 1990 at our office. The office is located at 165 4th Street behind the Gold Hill Market and Deli.



William Tramposch, Director of the Oregon Historical Society cutting the ribbon at our Grand Opening June 23, 1990.

On Saturday, June 23, a sunny summer day in Gold Hill, a bright yellow ribbon was cut in front of 165 4th Street. This highlighted the Grand Opening of the headquarters of the Gold Hill Historical Society.

News photographers from three newspapers snapped pictures and took notes on the occasion. Society President Cindy Faubion spoke to the assembled crowd on the wealth of heritage in Gold Hill, not only in museum pieces, but also in terms of human endeavors. Faubion then introduced William Tramposch, Executive Director of the Oregon Historical Society. Tramposch spoke briefly on his admiration for small volunteer-led museums. He challenged Society members to maintain high standards, be very concerned about the community being served, and have fun!

Society members, dressed in period clothing, greeted over 60 visitors at the new facility. Cookies, punch, and coffee were served, and books, calendars, and t-shirts were sold.

Many volunteers are to be thanked for their labor necessary for the grand opening. We hope all names have been included. Crayetta Armstrong, Tom Cushman, Ted Wharton, Wesley Dahme, Cindy Faubion, Linda and Reg Genaw, Janet and Jerry Sessions, Jono Nutter, Clare and Don Moore, Bob Bowers, Marge Edens, Dick Steele, Larry Ownby, Don Morrow, Genevieve Heil, Harold and Linda Annecston, and Elton Snow.

by Thomas R. Cushman, Esq.

At our June meeting, we voted to print extra newsletters so we could sell them to earn a little extra money for our society. The response has been good. We will have the extra copies available at our office on 4th Street. The price was set at $1.00 each. This money will help us with the matching funds required by the budget process.

If any of you have additional ideas in regards to any type of fund raiser please come forward. It is already August and we have not had one fund raiser this year.

We did have our cookbook reprinted, and they are available for purchase. The price is $5.00. These are great gifts for family and friends who want a taste of Gold Hill!

The Gold Hill Western Bank had their grand opening June 27,1990. More than 100 people attended the event.

Those representing the Gold Hill Historical Society, were; Alyce Bottleson, Mary Bradish and Crayetta Armstong.

The pictures from the Historical Society were well arranged throughout the bank. There were many comments and interest shown by the veiwing public.

Gold Hill mayor, Jay DeYoe introduced George St. Laurent from the Western Bank headquarters in Coos Bay. He is chairman and chief executive of the Coos Bay Bank.

St. Laurent announced the Western Bank is donating the old bank site and mobile home to the city of Gold Hill for the police department. Police Chief Katie Holmboe stated that she appreciated the donation, and it was a big step for the police department.

Other bank officials attending were Kathy Newhouse, Senior Vice President and Director of Human Resources; Richard Hieb, Executive Vice President from the Chief Administration Office; Richard Finlayson, Senior Vice President and Director of Bank Operations; Joe Lance, Senior Vice President and Regional Administrator; Jerry Sands, Vice President and Trust Officer; Jerry Burns, Vice President Senior Credit Officer.

The Rogue Valley Jazz Company of Medford entertained the guests.

by Crayetta Armstong

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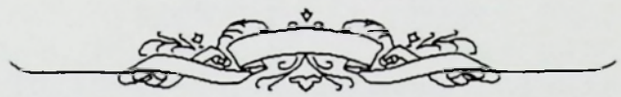
As many of you know, we have been struggling with what to do with the brick building located on the lot we were given by Pacific Power and Light. The demolition was put up for bid in June. We received five bids from various contractors around the valley.

A-1 Landclearing of Eagle Point got the bid and has contracted to clear the lot and leave us 1500 bricks to sell as souvenirs.

This demolition will be a relief to our society, as we have all been worried about the possibility that someone might get hurt by falling brick.

The building was constructed in 1914. The following article was taken from the March 7, 1914 Gold Hill News.

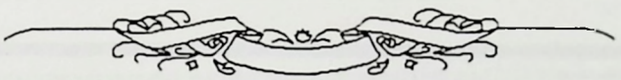
"Material for the new $1,500 sub-station of the California Oregon Power company, to be erected in this city to replace the one destroyed by fire, is expected to arrive daily. The Gold Hill sub-station will be of the modern out-door type, and absolutely proof against fire."



In Memory of Chuck Rilea and Clarence Kell. Gold Hill will sorely miss these two men.

Chuck will be remembered as a Gold Hill Municipal Judge.

Clarence's tall tales will be missed by all that knew him.



Linda Genaw gave us an update on the Hanby school project at the June meeting. The students involved and teacher Alma Gates will accompany Linda to Salem in the fall to the State Historical hearings. Linda put together a booklet about Hanby to help raise funds for their trip to Salem. They need to raise $300.00 for the trip. The T.A.G. project has earmarked $100.00 toward the trip and the students sold popsicles the last two weeks of school. The remaining money will come from the sales of the booklets, which are a wonderful souvenir of the school's 80th birthday this year. Besides a brief history of the schools in Gold Hill, the booklet includes the names of all those who signed the guest register the day of the party. The price is $2.00 each, and they are available at our office. Please support these young people in their effort to save our school building.

Our office is opened Tuesdays and Saturdays from 1:00 P.M. until 4:00 P.M.. Stop by and have a look at what we have done.

Genevieve Heil

We decided not to go to the fair, when we couldn't get enough volunteers to man our booth. We should make our appearance known at such events. We need more volunteers to help with our endeavors. We could also use some volunteers to man the office during the hours that it is opened. Contact Cindy if you would be interested in spending an afternoon meeting tourists and other interesting people, who are curious about our rich history.

ATTENTION

We are in dire need of a new Treasurer. Due to ill health, Clare Moore has handed in her resignation. This job does not require a degree in bookkeeping, just someone who can keep track of all or our financial activities. Clare has kept our books in such good shape that it will be easy for the person who takes her place.

Our Society took third place in the Gold Dust Days Parade. The Seniors walked away with a First Place ribbon for their float.

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Anyone in our Society can submit articles for the newsletter. Contact Editor Linda Genaw if you have something you would like included. Articles should be handed in at each meeting.

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Our most famous members were again in the public eye. LaRue and Earl Morris were featured on KDRV channel 12. The reporters were taken on a tour of Gold Gulch. Anyone of you who has visited Gold Gulch knows that these boys are hard to keep up with. Their energy seems never ending; however they could use our help. Anyone who would like to volunteer an afternoon helping LaRue and Earl with their presentation, please contact Cindy for details.

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At the July meeting, Linda Genaw showed the many documents, diagrams, photographs and maps that she and the three Hanby students have put together for the nomination. The packet is now ready to be mailed to the State Historical Board for review. Linda said, "It has been a long six months. It has been enjoyable, but I am glad this project is complete." Best wishes on the success of this nomination.

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Mary Bradish, Gene Heil, and Linda Genaw put up a photograph display at the new bank. Bank manager Cynthia Brewington has offered us wall space to display historical pictures and articles.

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For those of you that would like to come to the meetings but can not endure the heat, you will be pleased to know that Chris has finally installed the much needed air conditioning. Thank you Chris.

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We need a person to head up the committee to locate a permanent building for our Society. There are a few houses in town that would be suitable for our needs. Please step forward and take on this task.

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Linda is now in the process of cataloging and getting our photo collection in order. When complete this system will be very similar to the one used by the Oregon Historical Society in Portland. The 3" X 5" reproductions are being mounted on 5" X 8" file cards. The cards include the donor name, accession number, file negative number, actual negative number, description, size, and condition of original.

When complete you will be able to come into the office and look at the cards and order whatever photograph you wish. We will be selling 5 X 7's for $4.00 and 8 X 10's for $6.00.

Look for this project to be done soon.

DONOR NAME:
Clarence Kell

ACCESSION #
86.3.7

DESCRIPTION:
Neg # 175
File neg frame # 4A

Gold Hill
1914 Baseball team

SIZE:
8" X 10"
CONDITION:
Excellent

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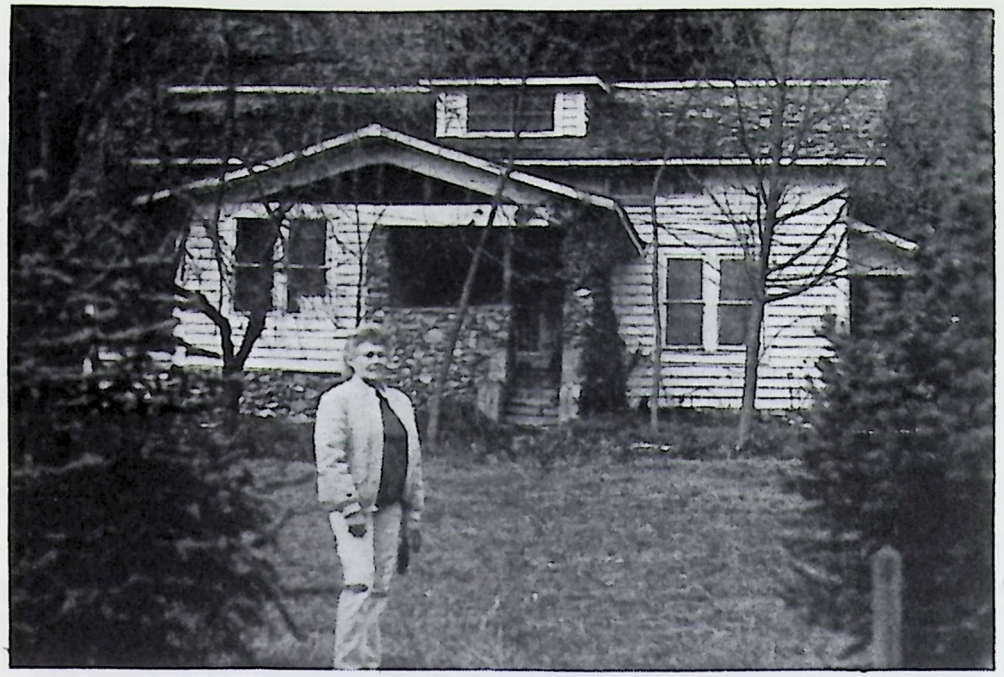
The above is an illustration of how the cards are set up and mounted. This process takes many hours of tedious work. You probably won't be seeing much of Linda.

Gold Hill Historical Society members who dressed in period costumes for the Grand Opening June 23, 1990. From left to right are; Thomas R. Cushman, Esq., drummer, Casey Faubion, hunter and marksman, Lucinda Faubion, camp cook, Ida Pearl Dusenberry Tilley, Lucinda's ma, Ted Wharton, miner extrordinare, Mary Bradish, mail order bride, Janet Sessions, school marm, and Crayetta Armstrong, town marshall.



IDA PEARL DUSENBERRY TILLY OUTSIDE THE HOUSE WHERE SHE WAS BORN

On December 19th, 1932 at the Wharton house in Gold Hill, Ida Fay Starns Wharton had company. Her older sister, Lily May Starns Dusenberry was expecting her fifth child to be born at any time. Lily, on her doctor's advice, was staying at her sister's place, rather than the three miles out of town at her own Sardine Creek home without a telephone or any close neighbors.

Without warning, Lily clutched her stomach as she leaned against the fireplace mantel. Her husband, Robert, picked her up and hurriedly carried her to the downstairs bedroom. Lily looked into her anxious husband's eyes and told him to get the doctor, quick! Without a word Robert immediately rushed out on foot to get Dr. W.P. Chisholm.

At this point Ida sent her two young sons, Ted 13 and Ben 10 years, out front to play in the yard. (Both men remember this event vividly.) Ida, realizing there was no time left, began to calmly help her sister deliver the baby.

We are not exactly sure of the time, but Ida believes it was between 2:30 and 3:00 P.M.

Upon their return, Robert and the doctor were greeted by the surprising sight of Lily cradling her tiny, infant daughter in her arms.

The infant was named after the courageous woman who helped welcome her into this world. My mother, Ida Pearl Dusenberry Tilley, was the child born in Ida's home that day.

Ida Wharton and her family later moved to the town of Medford, where Ida lived to the age of 92.

by Cindy Tilley Faubion

If you, or a friend would like to help us preserve the rich history of Gold Hill and the surrounding area, receive the historical society newsletter, and other fun stuff, complete the form below and return it with your $5.00 check or money order for a Family Membership to:

Gold Hill Historical Society
P. O. Box 26
165 4th St. Phone 855-9351
Gold Hill, Oregon 97525

Name_____

Address_____

City_____State_____Zip_____

Telephone_____

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Cindy Faubion
Vice President:
Crayetta Armstrong
Secretary:
Genevieve Heil
Treasurer:
Clare Moore
Past President:
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Newsletter Editor:
Linda Genaw
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